

## Emergency/Temporary Housing Services

### What is the service?

- Emergency shelters and transitional housing programs for homeless families and individuals in Washington are supported by public funding from the State Department of Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED) together with non-profit, private, local, and federal funds.
- In addition to providing shelter, services are provided to help homeless individuals obtain permanent housing and to prevent homelessness for those at immediate risk of becoming homeless.
- Housing programs include the Emergency Shelter Assistance Program; Transitional Housing, Operating and Rent; Tenant Based Rental Assistance; Farmworker Housing; and Overnight Youth Shelters.
- Additional social services for homeless individuals and families are provided by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services. See sections on Financial Assistance to Needy Families, Nutrition Services, and Childcare Services. Child Protective Services also provides services but is not currently included in this report pending the reorganization of services.
- Website:  
[http://www.cted.wa.gov/portal/alias\\_CTED/lang\\_en/tabID\\_474/DesktopDefault.aspx](http://www.cted.wa.gov/portal/alias_CTED/lang_en/tabID_474/DesktopDefault.aspx)

### Emergency Shelter Assistance Program

*Description:* The Emergency Shelter Assistance Program (ESAP) provides funding to support emergency shelters throughout Washington. State funding is matched by community resources and supplemented by federal emergency shelter funding.

People receiving services supported by ESAP can receive up to 90 days assistance in the form of

- traditional shelter
- rent/mortgage assistance to avoid eviction
- first month's rent deposit
- landlord mediation
- case management services

*How/where are services provided?:* ESAP helps support a network of 172 community-based emergency shelters throughout Washington. A list of organizations providing housing and related services is available at [www.endhomelessnesswa.org](http://www.endhomelessnesswa.org)

*Who is receiving the service?* In SFY 2004, 44,988 individuals in 31,362 households received 1,352,357 bednights of shelter; and 48,915 individuals in 30,030 households received 655,900 bednights of prevention. See details in the following tables.

Individuals Served by Emergency Shelter Assistance Program Washington State, SFY 2004 <sup>1</sup>				
	Individuals Provided Shelter		Individuals Provided Prevention Services	
Age	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0-5 years	5,253	11.7%	5,992	12.2%
6-11 years	3,662	8.1%	4,897	10.0%
12-17 years	3,564	7.9%	4,129	8.4%
18-21 years	2,918	6.5%	2,350	4.8%
22-44 years	19,134	42.5%	18,549	37.9%
> 44 years	10,457	23.2%	12,998	26.6%
Total	44,988	100%	48,915	100%
Race/ethnicity				
White	24,718	54.9%	31,701	64.8%
Hispanic	4,941	11.0%	5,627	11.5%
African American	9,535	21.2%	6,135	12.5%
Native American	2,534	5.6%	2,186	4.5%
Asian	752	1.7%	560	1.1%
Other	2,508	5.6%	2,706	5.5%
Total	44,988	100%	48,915	100%

### Traditional Housing, Operating, and Rent

*Description:* The Traditional Housing, Operating, and Rent (THOR) program provides homeless families with up to two years rental assistance, subsidies to support transitional facilities housing homeless families, and case management to help families transition to permanent housing and self-sufficiency. Participants collaborate with case managers to set goals to address barriers to self-sufficiency, and case managers connect families to a wide variety of services.

*How/where are services provided?:* Program services are delivered through housing authorities, community action agencies and local governments that collaborate with other local service providers.

*Eligibility:* Homeless families with children under 18 years or pregnant women with incomes at or below 50% of the median household income for their county are eligible if they agree to create a Housing Stability Plan and participate in achieving it.

*Who is receiving the service?:* In SFY 2004, 1,356 new families were served.

<sup>1</sup> 2005 Emergency Shelter Assistance Program Report. Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development accessed at <http://housing-information.net/report/index.php> on 11/10/05.

### **Tenant Based Rental Assistance**

*Description:* The Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program provides homeless and low-income households with security and utility deposits and up to 12 months of rent assistance. Households receive a combination of deposits and subsidies that enable them to pay no more than 30 percent of their income for rent and utilities.

*How/where are services provided?:* Program services are delivered through housing authorities, community action agencies, and local governments that collaborate with other local service providers.

*Eligibility:* Eligible households have incomes that do not exceed 50% of the median household income for their area.

*Who is receiving the service?:* In SFY 2004, 4,169 new families were served.

### **Farmworker Housing**

*Description:.* The Farmworker Housing Program provides grants and loans to non-profit organizations and local governments to develop both permanent and seasonal housing for farmworkers and migrant workers. They assist growers by helping to finance the infrastructure needed to develop and manage housing on their farms. They also provide emergency housing vouchers for migrant workers displaced due to health and safety reasons.

*How/where are services provided?:* Program services are delivered through housing authorities, community action agencies and local governments that collaborate with other local service providers.

*Eligibility:* (see above)

*Who is receiving the service?:* As of 2002, 725 units of permanent housing and 4,054 seasonal beds had been developed since 1999. In addition, 3,059 bednights of emergency shelter have been provided to migrant workers living in unsafe conditions.

## Overnight Youth Shelters

*Description:* The Licensed Overnight Youth Shelter program provides funding to assist youth shelters in King, Skagit, Snohomish, and Spokane counties to meet the Department of Social and Health Services licensing requirements to serve youth ages 13-17. Youth served by these shelters have run away or are homeless due to family problems. Additional services for runaway and homeless youth are provided by the Children's Administration of the Department of Social and Health Services. See <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/services/srvAdlsFAQ.asp>

*How/where are services provided?*

The four youth shelters include:

VOA – Crosswalk  
Spokane, WA

<http://www.voaspokane.org>

Cocoon House  
Everett WA

<http://cocoonhouse.org>

TeenHope  
Shoreline, WA

<http://www.teen-hope.org/>

Skagit Valley Family YMCA  
Mount Vernon, WA

Email: [oasisteenshelter@hotmail.com](mailto:oasisteenshelter@hotmail.com)

*Eligibility:* Any homeless youth.

*Who is receiving the service?:* In 2004-2005, the Overnight Youth Shelter Grant assisted in providing 5,505 bednights of shelter to 384 youth, with 525 youth turned away for a variety of reasons.

## Issues/Concerns

- The high cost of housing combined with low incomes continues to push many Washington families into homelessness. In SFY 2004, 173,056 individuals in 83,379 households were turned away from shelters and 116,808 individuals in 50,621 households were turned away from prevention services. 51% of the households turned away from shelter were households with children.
- The need for farmworker housing continues to exceed the services available.
- The need for shelter and services for homeless youth is particularly acute.